

# Children's Centre News

'Our natural environment is precious. Our children adore it and learn copious amounts within it. In order for our children to be future advocates for our natural world, we must connect them strongly with it. ' (from our Philosophy Statement)

## From Linda.....

As we head toward the end of term 1, we begin to get very excited to introduce Bush Kindy to our children and families. Notes regarding this experience have been placed in pigeonholes. We welcome volunteers to join this program, and soon there will be a 'sign up' chart for those interested to register their interest. There will also be an information session for Bush Kindy volunteers in the final week of term, on Monday 3:40pm.

STEM is a major curriculum focus for our Bush Kindy program. STEM in early childhood has a strong emphasis on promoting critical and creative thinking. We encourage our children to be curious, to investigate, to research, to solve problems, to wonder, to hypothesise. The dispositions for learning are crucial in this, including persistence, collaboration, curiosity, communication, resourcefulness, reflexivity and more.

We hope that you can join us for our Family Morning in Para Wirra at the beginning of next term!

## THE CONNECTED DISCIPLINES OF STEM

### SCIENCE

is a way of observing and experimenting

### TECHNOLOGY

is a way of choosing, using and inventing tools

### ENGINEERING

is a way of problem solving and designing for solutions

### MATHEMATICS

is a way of measuring and quantifying, to find patterns and understand solutions



THROUGH A PROCESS OF INQUIRY

## SPORTS DAY

Friday 29th  
March

## LAST DAY TERM

Friday 12th April

## BUSH KINDY VOLUNTEER

## INDUCTION SESSION

Monday 8th April  
3:40pm

## BUSH KINDY FAMILY MORNING

Session 1 - Wednesday 1st  
May

Session 2 - Wednesday 8th  
May

## Sports Day

Session 2 children will participate in Sports Day on Friday 29th March. Children can wear the same colour as their school siblings, however if they do not have school siblings they can pick any colour.

We will participate in events from around 9am until 11am. Parents are more than welcome to join us. The school canteen will be offering some order options on this day - we will forward this information as we receive it.

# CHECK OUT OUR LITTLE GREEN THUMBS!



Everyone at the children's centre have been working together to get our vegetable patch up and going. We have planted a variety of herbs such as lemongrass, mint, dill and parsley. We are also having a crack at some eggplant, capsicum, potatoes and strawberries. The children have been very responsible in ensuring the plants get all the water they need and it's been lovely to watch the older children sharing their knowledge and gardening skills with our younger children in occasional care. As the seasons change so will our patch and we welcome any donations or advice from families. We are all very excited to try some new fruit and veg when it is ready for harvest.

Jaimie

## Your Child's Progress at Preschool - Learning Story Sharing

Educators gather observations of children continuously. Using these observations, educators make decisions about children's strengths, interests, needs and learning goals. They also draw upon their observations to develop stories about your child's learning at preschool.

Families will begin to receive invitations to attend a meeting with your child's primary caregiver between now and the middle of next term. During this meeting you will be given the opportunity to hear your child's story, give your input on how your child is progressing, discuss any concerns, ask questions and share your ideas for future learning goals.

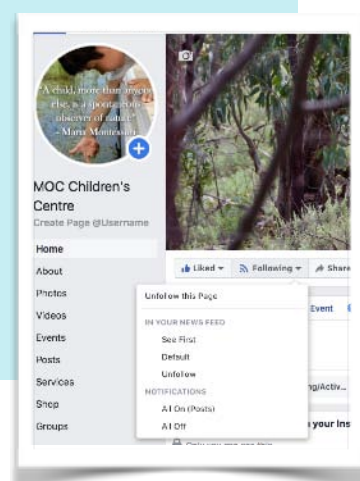
## HOW TO STAY INFORMED

Life gets busy! To ensure you keep up to date with all that happens at our Centre please read notes carefully, check your pigeon hole each day, take the time to look at displays, talk with staff, like our Facebook page 'MOC Children's Centre' (and follow our page to ensure you don't miss posts) and read our programming book. If you prefer to communicate with staff via email, please do so!

[ashlea.mccarthy@moc.sa.edu.au](mailto:ashlea.mccarthy@moc.sa.edu.au)    [linda.rich@moc.sa.edu.au](mailto:linda.rich@moc.sa.edu.au)

[jaimie.bevis@moc.sa.edu.au](mailto:jaimie.bevis@moc.sa.edu.au)    [renee.tonani@moc.sa.edu.au](mailto:renee.tonani@moc.sa.edu.au)

[kara.witcomb@moc.sa.edu.au](mailto:kara.witcomb@moc.sa.edu.au)





# Bush Kindy Family Days...

## Session 1 - Wednesday 1st May

## Session 2 - Wednesday 8th May

9:30am Meet us at Para Wirra Conservation Park - Children will be encouraged to explore the area with their families.

10:30am Morning tea on mats together. Cherylynne will welcome us to country. Educators will talk about our plans for bush kindy this year.

11:30am - Educators will return to preschool - families are welcome to remain in the park if they wish

12:00pm - Educators will be at the centre ready to welcome families who wish to send their child to preschool for the afternoon.



The land is  
where our  
roots are.

The children  
must be  
taught to feel  
and live in  
harmony with  
the Earth.

*Maria Montessori*  
Artist: Robert  
Coombs







What's important is that children have an opportunity to bond with the natural world, to learn to love it and feel comfortable in it, before being asked to heal its wounds.

— David Sobel —



## Sustainability @ MOC Children's Centre

### The importance of connection to our natural world....

We provide opportunities for our children to engage with sustainable living practices, including recycling, composting, reusing, gardening and more. However, the overarching focus of our sustainability focus is about promoting a deep connection to nature within our children. How can we raise children who care about their earth if they do not first have an opportunity to learn to appreciate and investigate it?

Our Aboriginal Education program, driven by Kaurua Elder Aunty Cherylynne, plays a key role in this, along with our Beach, Bush Kindy and playgroups.

We know that connecting babies, toddlers and young children to the natural world is "crucial for optimal intellectual and physical development; provides a sense of refuge and healing in a sometimes violent and frightening world; helps them grow into adults who care about environmental stewardship; and nurtures a sense of shared community among the world's peoples" (NACC, 2007).

## Child Protection Curriculum

As part of the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum, we are currently focussing on 'Touching'.

### Why 'Touching'?

Children's rights about touching need to be respected. Touching should be in response to the needs of the child, not the need of the adult, and with the child's permission. Children have the right to say that they don't want to be touched if they feel uncomfortable about it.

Children may change their minds about what touching they will allow and on one occasion may allow a hug but at other times may only allow a wave or a handshake. The Relationship Touching Circle that is used with the children is attached. This is the guide that we are educating children to use to consider what touching they feel is appropriate for different people in their lives.

### What are we doing at preschool?

We will be offering a range of experiences revolving around 'Touching'. Some of these experiences will include:

- Discussing safe what sort of touching is safe (including where, how and which part of the body; for example a safe touch would be tapping a friend on their arm gently to get their attention)
- Discussing personal space
- Discussing caring touched for young children (for example a parent helping bathe a young child)
- Discussing necessary but uncomfortable touching (for example by a doctor in the presence of a parent or caregiver)
- Discussing unsafe touching
- Practicing saying 'no' and 'stop' when we feel uncomfortable or unsafe

### What can you do at home to support this learning?

- Respect the wishes of your child when it comes to touching, and explaining to them when this may not be reasonable
- Advocate for your child their rights for touching to family and friends (for example don't insist that they give grandma a kiss goodbye if they don't feel comfortable doing so)
- See the Relationship Touching Circle on the following page - this is a resource we will be using at kindy

If you have any questions please talk to your child's teacher or Linda.

# Relationship Touching Circle

We know lots of people. Some of them we know well, but some we don't really know at all. If we know them well, we might want to give them a cuddle. Should we cuddle someone we don't know? Let's have a think about who we know well enough to cuddle, people we don't know quite as well that we might just say hello and wave to, and people who we shouldn't touch.

